

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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**STATE TREATY RATIFICATION MAKES RAPID PROGRESS.** On July 9, 1955, Walter N. Walmsley Jr., United States Charge d'Affaires in Moscow, submitted to Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Zorin the instrument of American ratification of the Austrian State Treaty, signed by President Eisenhower. The President signed the text of the treaty on June 25, 1955, after the Senate had approved it on June 17, by a vote of 63 to 3.

Queen Elizabeth placed her signature on the Austrian Treaty on July 7, 1955, thereby completing ratification by Great Britain. Parliament had approved the Treaty on June 29 and 30.

The Treaty was on the agenda of the French National Assembly for July 12, 1955, after it had been agreed to carry out the three readings of the document as promptly as possible. The Assembly's Foreign Policy Committee unanimously proposed ratification of the State Treaty.

**PARLIAMENT PASSES MILITARY JURISDICTION LAW.** In its session of June 22, 1955, the Austrian Parliament adopted a military jurisdiction law providing for the establishment of the new Austrian army under the jurisdiction of the Federal Chancellery. The law provides that the following matters will come under the Chancellery and its subordinate military sections: defense legislation, recruitment for the army, all personal matters relating to military personnel, establishment of personnel records, army organization, fortification of the country and guarding of borders, military aviation, training of the army, armaments, military budget, civil air defense and military intelligence.

**AUSTRIAN EMPLOYMENT AT ALL-TIME HIGH.** As of the end of June 1955, the number of employees and workers registered for sickness insurance in Austria was 2,114,610. This figure represents an employment record in Austria, since the highest previous figure, in October 1954, was 2,076,000. The ratio of employable though unemployed workers to the total number of employed workers was only 2.5% at the end of June.

**FOUR-POWER PASSES ABROGATED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR.** On June 24, 1955, an order of the Ministry of the Interior went into force providing that the four-language "Identification cards" previously introduced at the wish of the occupying powers are no longer valid as a sole identification document. From now on, Austrian citizens are no longer required to possess the four-language card and have it with them at all times.

**VICE-CHANCELLOR SCHAERF EXPLAINS AUSTRIA'S ARMED NEUTRALITY.** Speaking on the question of Austria's obligation to maintain a neutrality similar to that of Switzerland, Austrian Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf declared recently: "This obligation means that we must abstain from all military alliances, that we may allow no military transportation to pass through our territory and that we may permit no foreign powers to establish military bases in Austria. Military neutrality, however, does not necessarily obligate us in spirit. The State Treaty enables us both to lead a democratic life of our own and to remain citizens of the free world with our hearts and reason. Since we may enter no military alliances, no one is under any obligation to assist us if we are attacked. On the other hand, there is still the danger that allegedly 'irresponsible' elements may one day pour into Austria from those of our neighboring countries which, like Hungary and Czechoslovakia, are heavily armed. We must therefore be ready to defend ourselves and for this purpose we need a federal army."

**SOVIETS PLUNDERING USIA PLANTS AND AUSTRIAN FORESTS.** Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab has requested the Soviet Ambassador in Vienna to take measures which will guarantee compliance with the assurance given earlier by the Soviets that the USIA plants and farms operated by the Soviets in Austria would be turned over to Austria, pursuant to the State Treaty, with their entire stocks, including all raw materials and goods on hand.

In recent weeks raw materials and finished merchandise have been shipped out of the plants with increasing frequency. The material removed also includes machinery and machine components from USIA plants. Among other things, the Soviets have removed 600 tons of scrap from the Neusiedl Oil Plant alone as well as large quantities of casing pipe and drilling motors from other oil plants. This material is being shipped to the satellite countries. In violation of the Treaty provisions, steel, semi-finished products, hardwood, machinery and large quantities of scrap are being put up for sale. Similarly, especially in the province of Burgenland, extensive felling of trees has been taking place since the signing of the Treaty in Soviet-confiscated forests and large quantities of lumber are being transported to Hungary. Austrian workers have refused to participate in this reckless exploitation, and increasing numbers of Russian soldiers are being used to carry out this last-minute plundering of Austria's forests.

**PRIME MINISTER NEHRU IN AUSTRIA.** The Indian Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, arrived in Austria on June 26, 1955, for an official visit and he spent two days in Vienna and two in Salzburg. Mr. Nehru conveyed a message to the President of Austria from the President of India which expressed the hope that the friendly relations existing between India and Austria would be deepened as a result of the Prime Minister's visit. Nehru himself declared that he had not come to Austria for any special political purpose but only because of the desire to see the beautiful city of Vienna again. During his stay in Vienna, Nehru discussed the international situation with members of the Austrian Government, especially in the light of Austria's situation following conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty and they also discussed the intensification and extension of economic relations between India and Austria. During his stay in Salzburg, Mr. Nehru conferred with Indian ambassadors and ministers to European countries.

The Indian Prime Minister was accompanied on his visit to Austria by his sister, Shrimati V. L. Pandit, and by N. H. Pillai, General Secretary of the Indian Foreign Office.

**AUSTRIA WATCHING SOUTH TYROL DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.** In a recent statement distributed by the Austrian Press Agency, Chancellor Julius Raab replied as follows to various Italian press reports to the effect that "he would not concern himself with South Tyrol". "I have never made any statement of the kind. Such a comment would have been completely illogical in view of the fact that I am following the developments in South Tyrol very closely and am prepared at any time to defend the rights of the South Tyroleans as laid down in the Italian-Austrian agreement at Paris."

In a speech at Innsbruck, Tyrol, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the UN, Foreign Minister Figl referred to South Tyrol and declared that Austria, in signing the Paris Agreement on South Tyrol in 1946, had deferred to the principles of the UN. Stating that Austria continued to stand by her obligations under the Paris Agreement, Herr Figl declared that severe condemnation is called for in the case of the intellectual dishonesty recently exhibited by various Italian newspapers in attempting to falsify the true situation in South Tyrol. The Foreign Minister declared that these actions represented a resurgence of the spirit of Fascism. Pointing out that meticulous adherence to the Paris Agreement was a matter of policy with Austria, he said that she expects like attitude on the part of Italy. He added that since Italy, like Austria, desires to become a member of the UN, she will have to present proof that she does not regard the idea of international understanding, adherence to treaties and protection of minorities to be empty phrases.

The Vienna correspondent of the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung," who was present when the Austrian statesmen made their statements, wrote as follows: "Both the Chancellor and the Foreign Minister declared that because of the continuous violations of the autonomy statute by Italy, South Tyrol has become a serious problem for Austria. They indicated that Austria will have to intervene directly in the near future and that if the current negotiations of South Tyrolean representatives in Rome were again unsuccessful, Austrian-

Italian negotiations on the subject of South Tyrol would be taken up immediately. They stated that especially now, after having become a sovereign nation, Austria will devote special attention to seeing that the Paris Agreement is truly adhered to by Italy."

**PARTY NEGOTIATIONS AIM AT SETTLEMENT OF AUSTRO-GERMAN DIFFERENCES.** In the budget debate of the Western German Bundesrat (Upper House of Parliament), the diplomatic methods of the Bonn Government concerning German property in Austria were strongly criticized by Carlo Schmid, Socialist Vice-President of the Bundestag (Lower House of Parliament). He declared that when the United States decided on the expropriation of German property, the German Government noted this action with regret but undertook no diplomatic steps in the matter. On the other hand, in the case of Austria, Schmid continued, the Government was bringing up its heavy political guns.

Replying to these charges, Chancellor Adenauer pointed out that Austrian Vice-Chancellor Schaerf had emphasized that his party had been responsible for introducing into the Austrian State Treaty the provisions for confiscating German property. Adenauer added that nowhere had Adolf Hitler been welcomed as enthusiastically as in Vienna. The Chancellor's statements were criticized by representatives of the opposition party and of his own party as "undiplomatic and improper."

In Vienna, the Austrian Socialist Party issued a statement that Vice-Chancellor Schaerf had never declared that his party was responsible for introducing the confiscatory provisions into the State Treaty. The Austrian People's party stated that the differences between Western Germany and Austria on the subject of German assets should be settled through bilateral negotiations within the framework of the State Treaty's provisions. They maintained, however, that such a settlement would be impeded if erroneous and pre-conceived opinions unfavorable to Austria prevailed in Western Germany.

The entire Austrian press sharply and firmly rejected Dr. Adenauer's unwarranted statements.

Commenting on the Adenauer statements during a debate in the Austrian Parliament, Socialist Member Pittner declared, in part:

"We have never denied that Hitler came from Austria. It was in Germany, however, that he became Chancellor and he did not return to Austria until the power of the German army was at his disposal. Moreover, in 1938 there were not only people who shouted 'Heil Hitler' but also those who shouted 'Red-White-Red to the Death.' These were Social Democrats, Catholics, members of the Fatherland Front and Communists. We therefore consider ourselves bound to reject the German Chancellor's reproach as unjustified and out of place."

In connection with the attempt to ease Austro-German tensions through negotiations between political parties, a meeting was recently held in Salzburg between Vice-Chancellor Schaerf, Chairman of the Austrian Socialist party and Erich Ollenhauer, Chairman of the Social Democratic party of Western Germany. Similarly, Alfred Maleta, General Secre-

tary of the Austrian People's Party, has held talks in Bonn with Foreign Minister Brentano and leading C.D.U. political leaders.

#### **TWO BILLION AUSTRIAN SCHILLINGS FOR REFUGEE AID TO DATE.**

Since the end of the war, Austria has spent approximately 2 billion schillings on aid to refugees. At the present time, some 100 million schillings are being allocated for this purpose annually, a considerable percentage of this amount being used for camps primarily housing older and unemployable refugees.

In 1955, for the first time, Austria received 19 million schillings, representing an initial partial payment, from the UN Refugees Organization to assist her in carrying on this work. Among the amounts to be made available from Austrian sources are 18 million schillings for the support of refugees during the present year, 21 million for the construction of housing and 8 million for aid in emergency cases. In addition to the foregoing, substantially greater expenditures are being made for refugee camps. Since the UN Refugee Organization takes care only of persons who became Austrian citizens after October 21, 1954, Austria has made available an additional 40 million schillings for those refugees who took out Austrian citizenship prior to that date. Up to the beginning of 1955, approximately 270,000 refugees had become Austrian citizens, thereby becoming part of Austrian economic life.

#### **PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY FOR AUSTRIAN AIRLINE.**

The Minister of Transportation and Nationalized Enterprises, Karl Waldbrunner, declared recently that his Ministry has taken the appropriate steps to establish an Austrian airline which is to be publicly owned. Pointing out that an undertaking of this kind needs the advice of friendly nations and their respective airlines, the Minister indicated that advisory consultations are now being held for this purpose. He stated that Austria already has weather and safety control services for flying and that companies are already in existence to manage the fields and ground services at all of the country's airfields.

The Austrian People's party has said in this connection that it is opposed to the establishment of a *nationalized* airline and that it advocates the limitation of state activity to making modern and efficient airfields available. It maintains that international experience shows that stiff competitive conditions make private initiative a particular necessity in the case of air transport.

Since the authorization of civil aviation in Austria by the Allied Council on June 10, a Lower Austrian airline company has been applying for a concession to operate a domestic air service as well as to carry out sight-seeing, advertising and surveying flights. At the present time, the company has a Cessna-180 at its disposal and it is planning to purchase additional planes in order to carry out its program.

**EVERY FOURTH AUSTRIAN OWNS A RADIO.** As of April 1, 1955, Austria had a total of 1,701,805 radio tax payers. This means that every fourth Austrian owns a radio. Since the annual tax per radio at the present time is 96 schillings per year, the annual receipts from radio licenses in Austria amount to 166 million schillings.

#### **NEW TEST DRILLINGS FOR OIL IN UPPER AUSTRIA.**

After several years of preparatory work, the Rohoel-A.G. has now started assembly work on an oil-drilling installation in the vicinity of Timmelkamm, Upper Austria. The unit will be the largest drilling installation ever to be used in Austria and construction of a special highway was necessary before it could be transported. Drilling will start in September 1955, but not until the beginning of 1956 will it be possible to determine whether or not investment in the installation was justified. Along with the oil fields of Zistersdorf in Lower Austria, which have already been developed, the area between the Alps and the Bohemian massif known as the Molasse Zone, in which Timmelkamm is located, is the most promising.

#### **DANUBE COULD SUPPLY 14 BILLION KWH OF CURRENT ANNUALLY.**

Early in July the first three sets of machinery at the Jochenstein power plant on the Danube River were put in operation. Once the expansion of this station is completed, it will have an annual capacity of 920 million KWH. Work on the second Danube power plant, at Ybbs-Persenbeug, proceeds according to schedule, so that before the present year is over, the two southern weir basins will be completed.

A comprehensive plan for the development of power stations along the Austrian section of the Danube provides, in addition to the two above-mentioned units, for twelve other projects. If this plan is carried out, the Austrian section of the river will be able to supply approximately 14 billion KWH of electric power annually.

Work will start this fall on the construction of a new power plant at Schaeferding on the Inn River. The annual capacity of this unit is expected to be about 100 million KWH. Another project on which a decision will be reached shortly concerns a new Drau River power station at Edeling, intended to produce 54 million KWH annually.

**8.5% DOLLAR LIBERALIZATION SINCE JULY 15.** On July 5, 1955, the Austrian Cabinet approved an 8.5% liberalization list covering imports from the United States and Canada. The new measure will go into effect on July 15. Unlike the list applying to the OEEC (Organization for European Economic Cooperation), which uses 1952 as its base year, the list includes the following products:

Various spices, fruit juices, lemons, whisky, canned fish, soap fats, oils, wax, asbestos, natural rubber, sulfur, volatile oils, various chemicals, staple rayon types of tulle and lace, various ores, nylon and nylon yarn, artificial silk, phosphorus, dyes, vitamins, automobiles, unexposed film (except for X-ray films), tin plate etc.

Writing on this subject, the "Neue Oesterreichische Tageszeitung" stated: "The merchandise in question enjoys the benefit of liberalization only if its country of origin is the United States or Canada. The products involved are largely those known as free goods, i.e. items which even previously had to be imported from the U.S. Nevertheless, this voluntary initiation of an Austrian liberalization policy in relation to the dollar area is an occasion to point out that it is finally time to settle the question of duties on bicycles in a manner favorable to Austria and for U.S. trade policy to become more receptive, in theory and practice, to European and Austrian exports.

**AUSTRIA TO RECEIVE SURPLUS U.S. FARM PRODUCTS.**

An agreement concluded between the United States and Austria in mid-June provides for the delivery to Austria of surplus U.S. farm products worth approximately € million dollars. The funds accruing from the sale of these products will be used for domestic loans, for financing exports to the U.S. and for financial assistance to subsidize the international exchange of students.

**TEN MILLION DOLLAR WORLD BANK LOAN TO AUSTRIA FOR HYDROELECTRIC EXPANSION.** On June 14, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development approved a loan equivalent to 10 million U.S. dollars, to be paid mainly in European currencies, with the balance in U.S. dollars, for the Luenersee hydroelectric project being constructed in western Austria. The project is expected to earn the equivalent of \$1.5 million annually from power exports to the Ruhr and southwest Germany and will increase the power available to Vorarlberg and Tyrol, the two westernmost provinces of Austria. About \$7 million of the loan will be used to pay for imported equipment, the balance being allocated to buy equipment in Austria.

The Philadelphia National Bank is participating in the loan, without the World Bank's guarantee, to the extent of \$153,000, representing the first maturity which falls due on May 15, 1960.

This is the second Bank loan to Austria, the first also being made for a project to generate power for export as well as for internal consumption. This previous loan was allocated in July 1954 in European currencies equivalent to \$12 million to help finance the Reisseck-Kreuzeck hydroelectric project, from which power will be exported to Italy.

The present recipient is the Vorarlberger Illwerke (VIW), a power company established in 1924 with Austrian, German and Swiss capital to develop the hydroelectric resources of the Luenersee and of the Ill River, both in Vorarlberg. The company has been publicly administered since the end of the war.

The total cost of the project for which the Bank loan has been granted is estimated at 1,003 million Austrian schillings (\$38.6 million). The balance of the funds needed will come from the VIW's own resources, building loans subscribed to by the power consumers and from the Austrian Laenderbank.

The World Bank loan is for 25 years at an annual interest of 4-3/4 per cent which includes the statutory 1 per cent commission charged by the Bank. It is guaranteed by the Government of Austria and is also secured by a mortgage on the Luenersee properties and by an assignment to the Bank of revenues received by the VIW from its power exports.

**AUSTRIA TO CLAIM PROPERTY IN EASTERN EUROPE.**

As a result of the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty, Austria now has new opportunities for attempting to obtain restitution of Austrian property in the countries of Eastern Europe. Austrian claims against Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia are estimated at approximately \$600,000,000. The most important of these claims involve over 2,000 industrial enterprises, approximately 1,185,000 acres of land and tens of thousands of movable assets, bank accounts and securities. The most

extensive Austrian assets are in Czechoslovakia, amounting to a total of approximately 400 million dollars. This total consists of the following items: (figures in parentheses represent millions of dollars): land holdings (80), industrial holdings (73), securities (72), movable property (55), homes owned (40), farms (24), trade and industrial enterprises (21) and miscellaneous property (35).

Until now, the greatest progress in negotiations on Austrian property had been made in the case of Yugoslavia (involving assets of approximately 100 million dollars), but these talks have recently bogged down. Various negotiations have been held with both Czechoslovakia and Hungary but no concrete results have been achieved. Austrian property in Hungary is estimated at 80 million dollars, in Poland at 11 million and in Rumania and Bulgaria at 3 million dollars each.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR MEETING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.** The Federal Chamber of Commerce has submitted a memorandum to the Government on the subject of an emergency program to meet the economic obligations which will result from the conclusion of the State Treaty. First of all, the memorandum calls for a detailed inventory of all the property confiscated to date by the Soviets in Austria (i.e. of the USIA enterprises) and for a report on all pertinent questions connected with the oil industry. In view of the shortage of specialized workers in the latter field, the memorandum urges that an effort be made to interest Austrians who are working for oil companies abroad to return to their native country. The appointment of public administrators is advocated as a measure to protect the USIA enterprises and to ensure their continued operation. In the case, however, of plants which were not nationalized under the Nationalization Law of 1946, the Chamber's memorandum calls for their being transferred to private ownership at the earliest possible date. Among the methods proposed for effecting such transfer are restitution, the direct public sale of stocks and the sale of plants through public bids. The Chamber also demands the immediate closing of the 200 illegal USIA retail shops, calls for measures to facilitate the flow of long-term investment capital into Austria, opposes any increase in taxes and, in conclusion, advocates that the capital market raise approximately 20 million dollars annually to compensate for the million tons of oil which Austria will have to ship to the Soviet Union annually for the next ten years, in payment for the return of her oil fields.

**AUSTRIAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY BOOM.** In 1954 the Austrian chemical industry output was double that of 1937, reaching a total value of 4,900 million schillings, or a 14% increase over the previous year. Quantitatively, this is a 100,000-ton increase over 1953 and brings the chemical industry up to be the third largest industry in the country. The steep rise in production over pre-war levels is mainly due to the establishment of new industries and to the considerable post-war expansion of those already in existence. For example, whereas in 1937 hardly any synthetic cotton was produced in Austria, in 1948 production totalled 9,700

tons and in 1954 was almost four times this figure, reaching 36,700 tons. Similarly, many times the pre-war output of plastics and other synthetics is now being produced. Production of various important materials, particularly of polyvinyl chloride, which is now the most widely used plastic, was only started after the war. Plastic production schedules could be substantially expanded should new chemical industries using oil products be set up after the oilfields are returned to Austria.

Other important factors in the chemical boom are the rapidly increasing fertilizer output (568,000 tons in 1954) and increased production of rubber and asbestos articles, soaps, cleansers and medical supplies.

**STEYR-DAIMLER-PUCH PRODUCTION.** Latest production figures from the Steyr-Daimler-Puch Company show that since 1945 the company has turned out a total of 44,650 tractors, 14,000 trucks and buses, 16,894 passenger cars, 213,000 motor scooters and motorcycles, 884,000 bicycles, more than 3,000 "mopeds" (lightweight motorbikes) and about 38,000,000 ball and roller bearings. The company is currently producing more than 600,000 ball and roller bearings per month.

**NEW PUCH PRODUCTS.** The Puch-Works in Graz-Thondorf have just begun mass producing a freight scooter which they intend to put on the market very shortly. This small vehicle has a loading capacity of almost 450 lbs. and room for two persons. Production of a motor scooter with electric starter is expected to begin soon. This vehicle will be a special attraction on the Austrian market.

**ELECTRIFICATION OF AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE.** Austrian farms currently consume 40 KWH per hectare of cultivated land. Over 62,500 farms have been supplied with electricity since 1945 at an investment of 338,988,000 schillings. By the end of 1954, 416,642 electrically-powered machines were in use on Austrian farms, a 32.3% increase over 1953.

**1955 CARINTHIA FAIR.** A special agreement on compensation covering a volume of 11,210,000 schillings has been signed between Austria and Yugoslavia for the 1955 Carinthia Fair which will be held in Klagenfurt from August 11-21. Austrian plans call for export to Yugoslavia of livestock for breeding purposes, agricultural machinery and implements, hardware goods, tools, motor vehicles, bicycle and motorcycle parts, electrical supplies, chemicals, sports rifles and shotguns, and costume jewelry, while Austria will import ferrochromium, tanning fluids, pigskin, feathers, canned fish, fruit juices, fruit, vegetables and honey from Yugoslavia.

**1955 DORNBIRN FAIR.** It is expected that about 1,100 firms from 19 countries will participate in the 1955 Industries Fair which will be held July 29 to August 7 in Dornbirn, Vorarlberg. Among articles to be exhibited will be printed cloth, materials for ties, dress rayons, linings, scarves and a complete range of 100% synthetic materials.

## CULTURE AND SCIENCE

### NEW BURGTHEATER TO OPEN ON OCTOBER 14, 1955.

Vienna's rebuilt Burgtheater will open on October 14 with a performance of Grillparzer's "King Ottokar's Rise and Fall." On the preceding day, the theater will be transferred to the Federal Theater Administration in a state ceremony which will feature a performance of the "Prelude in the Theater," from Goethe's "Faust." The other performances of the opening week will be: Schiller's "Don Carlos," Goethe's "Torquato Tasso," Raimund's "The Spendthrift," Bahr's "The Concert," Monthlerent's "Port Royal" and Zuckmeyer's "The Cold Light."

**27TH INTERNATIONAL PEN CLUB CONGRESS MET IN VIENNA.** The 27th International Congress of The Pen Club, which was held in Vienna from June 13-18, devoted itself this year to the subject: "The Theater as an Expression of our Times." In his opening address, Minister of Education Drimmel, representing the Austrian Government, declared that the writer can fulfil his task only in an atmosphere of freedom, since only in such an atmosphere is intellectual creation possible. Mayor Franz Jonas of Vienna paid special tribute to the fact that the International PEN Club had never remained silent on the actions of the dictators. The president of the organization, the British author Charles Morgan, speaking on the establishment of new PEN centers in totalitarian states, declared that although tolerance is a great virtue it must be subject to certain absolute limitation.

At the Vienna Congress, the Korean center and the organization of Chinese writers at Hongkong were unanimously admitted to the PEN Club. It was also decided to establish a second Indian center at Calcutta. The Congress did not adopt any resolutions or issue an official communique on its work.

**EXHIBITION OF REPRESENTATIVE AUSTRIAN BOOKS IN BOLZANO.** In mid-June, Austrian Minister of Education Drimmel opened "The Austrian Book" exhibition in Bolzano, South Tyrol. The display features 2,500 different titles. In his address on the occasion, the Minister declared that the signing of the Austrian State Treaty "gives the Austrians reason to hope that in the future right and justice, adherence to agreements, mutual tolerance and discussion on a more spiritual plane will lead to a renaissance which will overcome present-day political stagnation." He said books are an excellent medium for counteracting lies and intellectual dishonesty.

The following day, likewise in Bolzano, the Minister of Education opened an art exhibition featuring works by the North Tyrolean painters, Professors Hell and Riss. On the same day, an exhibit of works by 16 South Tyrolean artists was opened in Innsbruck, capital of the Austrian province of Tyrol.

**SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS ON "BLUE BABIES" IN VIENNA.** Successful operations have been performed on "blue babies" during the past five years at Vienna's Denk Clinic. During this period, Dr. Steinhardt has performed over 100 operations on such babies and Dr. Hienert some 40, all

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at the same clinic. According to an announcement of Professor Schoenbauer, the mortality figures for blue babies in Austria are below the averages indicated by the medical literature from all over the world. Of Dr. Hienert's operations, only two had fatal results.

**VIENNA PHILHARMONIC 1955/56 SEASON.** The following conductors have been signed by the Vienna Philharmonic for its subscription series next season: Karl Boehm for two concerts and for the Nicolai concert, Rafael Kubelik for two concerts and Hans Knappertsbusch, Erich Kleiber, Mario Rossi and Bruno Walter for one concert each. Edwin Fischer, Carl Schuricht and Andre Cluytens have also contracted to lead the Philharmonic in three special concerts. Schuricht will conduct a Mozart program from the piano and Cluytens will conduct the Furtwaengler Memorial Concert.

**AUSTRIAN SCIENTISTS ABROAD.** Professor Josef Hofmann, director of the Vienna University observatory, will participate in the meetings of the International Astronomical Union to be held in Dublin, Hamburg, Herstmonceux Castle, Manchester from August 18 to September 9. He will be the first to represent Austria in the IAU.

Professor Friedrich Wessely, Professor Friedrich Galinovsky, and Karl Kratzl, Matthias Pailer and Herbert Michl, all chemists, will take part in the 14th International Congress for Theoretical and Applied Chemistry to be held in Zurich from July 21-27.

Associate Professor Margaret Dietrich has been invited to the first International Congress for Science of the Theatre to be held in London from July 17-23.

Richard Wolfram, ethnologist, attended the International Folk Music Festival and Conference in Oslo June 19 to July 5.

Franz Zagiba, musicologist, was invited to the Oxford meeting of the International Society for Music History held from June 17 to July 4.

Professor Friedrich Lauscher, meteorologist, conducted a climatic research project in Norway this May.

Walter Toman, psychologist, has been signed up for another year as Assistant Professor at Brandeis University, Waltham, U.S.A.

Ernst Topitsch, philosopher, will be a visiting professor at Hamburg University for the summer session.

Professor Josef Kissel of the Vienna College of Agriculture and Forestry has been invited to teach at the University of Hamburg.

Grete Mecenseffy, lecturer at Vienna University's Department of Protestant Theology, gave a course of lectures on "Austrian Protestantism, Past and Present" at Goettingen and Bonn Universities and at the ecclesiastical colleges of Bethel and Wuppertal-Barmen this June.

**RECENTLY PUBLISHED AUSTRIAN POETRY.** The Otto-Mueller-Verlag of Salzburg has published another volume of poems by the lyric poetess Christine Busta, entitled "The Lamp and The Porpoise" and has also issued a volume of poems, "The House of Mirrors" by the young Carinthian writer Hermann Lienhard.

The Vienna publisher Kurt Desch has started to put out a series of poems by young Austrian poets. The following

have been published to date: Hermann Hakel's "Here and There," Franz Kiessling's "Watch How You Live," "People of Thistles" by Walter Toman and "From Man to Man" by Friedrich Bergammer.

**ART NEWS.** An exhibition of water colors by the Carinthian painter, Pepo Grabner, was opened at the Secession Gallery in Vienna in mid-May, while the recent exhibition of Trieste artists in Vienna was awarded the Kuenstlerhaus gold medal of honor for its high artistic standard. Another award, the Honorary Award of the City of Vienna, has been presented to the Austrian painter, Alfred Gerstenbrand for his exhibition at the Spring Show of the Kuenstlerhaus. At the end of May a showing of drawings, etchings and some oils by the Austro-Dutch painter, Cecil van Haanen, was opened at Vienna's Albertina Gallery.

An exhibit of paintings of flowers from Lower Austria — mostly from the Biedermeier — was included among those in the "Plants and Flowers from Steppe to Mountain" exhibition, the first of its kind, which opened recently in Hoyos Castle, Gutenstein.

A series of 75 contemporary drawings and etchings by 29 Upper Austrian artists are on display at the Carinthian Landesmuseum in Klagenfurt where another Austrian painter, Herbert Boeckl, has a show of all his works.

**INNSBRUCK MUSEUM EXHIBITS AMERICAN PAINTINGS.** From mid-July to the end of August, 1955, the Ferdinandeum, the Tyrolean Provincial Museum in Innsbruck, will hold an exhibition devoted to American painting of the past 150 years. Representing 25 painters, the 150 works displayed come from the Pennsylvania Museum. In point of subject matter, portraits and landscapes predominate, although still life, genre scenes and historical episodes are also represented.

**VIENNESE EXHIBITIONS.** An exhibition of the work of Alfred Kubin, made up principally of drawings and sketches completed between 1900 and 1955, was recently opened in the St. Stephan Gallery.

The Cultural Department of the City of Vienna is currently showing a collection of paintings, sketches and drawings by members of the Austrian PEN Club.

**1954's MOST BEAUTIFUL AUSTRIAN BOOKS.** A jury from the Union of Austrian publishers has chosen the 9 most beautiful volumes published in Austria during 1954. These are: "Julia von Mogador" by Elisabeth Barbier (Paul Neff-Verlag, Vienna); "Know The Ways" by Hildegard von Bingen (Otto Mueller-Verlag, Salzburg); "The Woman of Tuscany" by Tet A. von Borsig (Anton Schroll & Co., Vienna); "The Insignia and Jewels of the Holy Roman Empire" by Hermann Fillitz (Anton Schroll, Vienna); "Opferholz" by Michael Guttenbrunner (Otto Mueller, Salzburg); "Hidden Beauty" by Stefan Kruckenhauser (Otto Mueller, Salzburg); "Oskar Laske" by Fritz Novotny (Brueder Rosenbaum, Vienna); "The Painter Anton Romako (1832-1889)" by Fritz Novotny (Anton Schroll & Co., Vienna); and Thoeny's "... With Y — Wilhelm Thoeny narrates and draws" (Leykam, Graz).

**INTERNATIONAL ADALBERT STIFTER MEETING.** In mid-May, the first International Convention of the Adalbert Stifter Institute was held in Linz with delegates from Holland, Switzerland, Italy and Germany participating. As reported by the Institute, more than 5000 essays, analyses and biographical works, including 100 PhD dissertations, have been published to date on the life and work of this Austrian writer and poet, who lived from 1805 to 1868.

**WINNERS OF VIENNA AWARDS.** The winners of the 1955 City of Vienna Awards are: Fritz Hochwaelder, dramatist; Ernst Krenek, composer; Sergius Pauser, painter; Lois Welzenbacher, architect; Paul Kirnig, painter and engraver; Fred Hennings, actor with the Burgtheater (Award for Public Education); Viktor Kraft, professor of philosophic theory (Award for the Arts and Humanities); Karl Przibram, physicist (Science Award) and Rudolf Holzer, journalist and drama critic (Journalism Award).

**AUSTRIAN CITIES SPONSOR LITERATURE.** In honor of the Vienna Festival, the City of Vienna has published the second volume of its literary almanac, "Thriving City," to which 73 authors have contributed.

The City of Linz has just issued the 12th volume of its lyric poetry series — "Vesper Flute" by Erna Blaas. This poetry series was started a few years ago.

**FEVERISH ACTIVITY IN VIENNA'S THEATRICAL WORKSHOPS.** In preparation for the opening this autumn of the reconstructed Vienna State Opera and the Vienna Burgtheater, the propshops of these government-operated theaters are working at top speed on the new sets and costumes for the scheduled first performances and new productions. The costumes for Beethoven's "Fidelio," which will be presented at the opening of the State Opera, are already completed; those for Wagner's "Die Meistersinger" and Mozart's "Don Giovanni" will soon be ready despite the fact that the casts will exceed 100 singers. In the "Armory" of these theaters, work is currently in progress on the hundred or more helmets needed for "King Ottokar's Rise and Fall" which will open the new Burgtheater with a gala performance. Former officers' sabres are being reforged to supply Rudolf von Hapsburg's men. Stage sets for all opening nights and new versions, designed by Robert Kautzky, Fritz Judtmann and others, are being readied and stored in the set warehouse.

**THEATRICAL EXHIBITS.** Vienna University's Institute for Dramatic Arts held an exhibition this June in which theater programs from 20 European countries were displayed. About 400 theaters contributed to the exhibit. At the same time, the Vienna Museum of Ethnology ran an exhibition on "Masks and Theater in Other Lands," using historic objects to demonstrate the development of drama from the ritualistic acting of primitive peoples.

**VIENNA CHAMBER OPERA ON BELGIAN TV.** The Vienna Chamber Opera, led by Hans Gabor in its summer season programs, was recently invited to perform over the Belgian government-sponsored TV network. The work chosen for the performance was Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" which was televised direct from the Royal House in Ghent. Music for the ensemble of soloists, choir and the Wiesenthal Ballet was provided by the Belgian Broadcasting Corporation orchestra.

**PHILHARMONIC HOLDS FIRST REHEARSAL IN NEW OPERA HOUSE.** On July 13, the Vienna Philharmonic held its rehearsal in the reconstructed Vienna Opera House, playing under the baton of Dr. Karl Boehm, Director of the Vienna State Opera. The work rehearsed was Richard Strauss' "The Woman Without a Shadow," with Leonie Rysanek, Christl Goltz, Elisabeth Hoengen, Hans Hopf and Ludwig Weber as soloists. This opera will be the third of a series of gala premieres in celebration of the opening of the new Opera House in November. The June 13 rehearsal was the first musical event to be held in the Vienna State Opera since its destruction 11 years ago.

**NEW ORCHESTRA ORGANIZED.** The well-known Austrian pianist, Friedrich Gulda, has organized the "Classical Orchestra Group" from among the members of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra for the purpose of performing music of the classical and earlier periods using the composers' original instrumentation. Gulda will appear as piano and harpsichord soloist with the group which is to be conducted by the young Viennese musician, Wolfgang Gabriel. The programs for the first three concerts have been established and will include music by Pergolesi, Handel, Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Gluck and Beethoven.

**PFITZNER'S "PALESTRINA" AT SALZBURG FESTIVAL IN AUTHENTICATED STAGING.** This year, Hans Pfitzner's opera, "Palestrina," will receive its first Festival performance at Salzburg. The opera will be produced in an entirely new staging, using costumes patterned after originals from the Vatican Collections in Rome. The set for the second act, which deals with the Tridentine Council, will be designed after a large fresco in the Vatican depicting a meeting of the Council. The directors of the Vatican Collections have given permission for color photographs of these paintings to be taken and these will be used as models for the costumes and set.

**MOZART'S "BASTIEN AND BASTIENNE" TO BE PERFORMED IN NEW YORK.** Mozart's delightful one-act opera "Bastien and Bastienne" will be performed at the John Hall Memorial, 342 East 63rd Street, New York City, on July 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29, at 8:30 p.m. The opera, which will be sung in translation, will form part of a double bill, the other part of the program consisting of scenes from Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." The singers in the Mozart comic opera will be Dorothy Jacobs as Bastien, Joy Alexander as Bastienne, and William Campbell as Doctor Colas, the sorcerer. Admission will be by donation. Reservations may be made by calling TR 6-9119 or TE 8-3433.

**FIRST NIGHTS AT THE THEATRE.** "The Penitent," a new play by Rudolf Henz, received its first performance at the Tyrol Landestheater at the end of May. Henz' last drama, "The Great Decision," a play about St. Paul, received its premiere only last year at the Vienna Burgtheater. The Innsbruck Landestheater has also approved production of a new comedy by Hans Hoemberg of Brixlegg, Tyrol, called "In Cognac There Are No Tears."

Following the recent opening of Franz Theodor Csokor's "Caesar's Widow," the Vienna Burgtheater has scheduled the play, which is part of Csokor's "Trilogy of a Crossroad of Custody," for regular performance.

The Upper Austrian Landestheater in Linz is planning to present two premieres during the coming season: a comedy about Emperor Josef II by Friedrich von Herzmanovsky-Orlando and a musical by Emil Berte called "Vienna Melodies."

**DR. POLLAK WINS AUER-WELSBACH MEDAL.** The Association of Austrian Chemists has presented Dr. Frederick F. Pollack, a chemist who originally came from Austria, with the Carl Freiherr von Auer-Welsbach Medal for his great achievements in the field of synthetic resin. The medal, which was donated for pioneer work of lasting significance in the advancement of the chemical industry has thus far been awarded only six times. The award to Dr. Pollak was made by the Austrian General Consul in New York on July 11, 1955.

**ROMAN RELICS IN TYROL.** In Wilten, near Innsbruck, the first stage of excavation work on the ruins of the Roman castle "Veldidena" has recently been completed after eighteen months of digging and archeological work. Numerous small Roman relics have been unearthed in the castle which was found to be approximately 230 by 240 feet in size.

**FILM NEWS.** The Donau Film Company of Vienna in cooperation with the Melodie Film Company of Berlin has started work on "Premier Rendezvous" (Her First Date) in the Salzburg Parsch studios. This is a rescreening in Agfacolor of the old film with the same title which starred Danielle Darrieux, Nicole Heesters and Adrian Hoven will star in this new version.

"Our Dear Relatives," being produced by the Bergland Film Company of Linz together with the Sueddeutsche Film-

produktion company of Munich, was on location in Wels, Upper Austria, this June.

The Schoenbrunn Film Company of Vienna and the Bosna Film Company of Yugoslavia will soon collaborate on a color movie to be built around the rediscovered town of Hvar, situated on the Adriatic coast south of Split. The town had until recently been hidden by the sea.

**FIRST AUSTRIAN CINEMASCOPE FILM NOW BEING PRODUCED IN VIENNA.** On July 20 work will begin in Vienna on the first Austrian cinemascope film, which is to be produced by the Eastman Kodak color process. The new film, directed by Franz Antel and provisionally entitled "The Congress Dances," will involve an expenditure of 12 million schillings. The leading roles will be taken by Johanna Matz, Rudolf Prack, Marthe Harrel, Josef Meinrad and Hannelore Gollmann. The music is being written by Werner Richard Hayman, who recently returned to Vienna from Hollywood.

**AUSTRIA REPRESENTED AT BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL.** The Ring Film production, "Three Men in the Snow," based on the Erich Kaestner novel of the same name, has been entered in the 51st International Film Festival opened in Berlin at the end of June. Three documentary films were also entered in the cultural film category: "Sculpture in Steel" by the Benesch Film Company, Innsbruck; "Hermann Thimig" produced by Dr. Max Zehenthaler of Vienna and Salzburg; and "The Treasure of the Occident" by the Stephanus Film Company, Vienna. Vienna's Neusser Film Company ran their documentary, "Atoms Serving Mankind" in Berlin at the same time without entering it in the Festival.

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